

her life of service at her alma mater. In January 2006, she will become the executive director of the Leadership Institute at Texas Woman's University at Denton.

As General Saunders transitions from her role as a military leader to a community leader, we wish her great health and happiness. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation for her many years of service. I am confident in the years ahead, Mary Saunders will continue to leave her indelible mark on our country.

THE MILITARY VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CONFIDENTIALITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for women in the military who are victims of violence by keeping their medical and counseling records confidential and allowing them to obtain valuable treatment services without further victimization.

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of service women victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Yet, our Armed Forces have failed to enforce the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling and treatment. Counseling and treatment is essential to begin the healing process, and service members should be able to seek access to these services without fear of exposure or public humiliation.

Recently, the issue of protecting confidential communications was brought to light in the case of *U.S. v. Harding*. Ms. Jessica Brakey was allegedly sexually assaulted in 2000 while serving as a cadet at the Air Force Academy. Following the assault, Ms. Brakey sought counseling by victim advocate, Ms. Jennifer Bier—a civilian who was contracted by the military. Under Colorado's rape shield law, the disclosure of a victim's counseling records is prohibited. However, the military court issued an extremely broad subpoena for Ms. Brakey's treatment records with Ms. Bier, as well as her complete 10-year medical history. When Ms. Bier refused to turn over these records to the military court, the judge suspended the case against the alleged assailant.

Unfortunately, this precedent setting case sent a clear message to the thousands of women in the military who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence each year that the Armed Forces will not protect you. It is critical that we take appropriate action to ensure that victims of these crimes are able to seek treatment and counseling without repercussion.

Although this bill is supported by many organizations that work to prevent and respond to sexual assault and domestic violence, the need for this legislation is also recognized within the military. The Department of Defense's, DoD, own Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies issued a report in June 2005 which recommended that "Congress should

create a statutory privilege protecting communications made by victims of sexual assault to health care providers and victim advocates. This privilege should extend to both medical health care providers and to those victim advocates designated and trained to perform that duty in a manner prescribed by DoD regulation."

This is exactly what my bill will do. The Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act will establish comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law. Under my bill, communications made to secure advice, counseling, treatment or assistance concerning a victim's mental, physical, or emotional state will remain confidential. Moreover, a victim will be able to refuse to disclose and prevent any other person from disclosing a confidential communication.

If a victim's doctor and advocate cannot protect the confidentiality of treatment sessions, sexual assault and domestic violence victims will be unlikely to seek essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, or threats to their career. Consequently, the military will continue to lose valuable women soldiers. These women put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. The military should work as hard to ensure they are protected when dealing with a horrible tragedy.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the great figures in Jewish and world history, the late Simon Wiesenthal. Mr. Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor who crusaded to ensure that those responsible for the Holocaust were brought to justice, passed away earlier today in his home in Vienna, Austria. Simon Wiesenthal followed his creed of "justice, not vengeance" and oversaw the arrest, capture and conviction of many Nazi war criminals.

Simon Wiesenthal was imprisoned at five German Concentration camps during the Nazi Holocaust, narrowly escaping execution on numerous occasions. After he was liberated, Mr. Wiesenthal went to work for the United States Army and began gathering information to be used in the Nazi war crimes trials. After the Nuremberg trials, while the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union were no longer interested in pursuing Nazi war criminals, Wiesenthal continued the charge to arrest and convict those responsible for the genocide of more than eleven million innocent people, including six million Jews and 89 of Wiesenthal's personal relatives.

Wiesenthal's most celebrated capture was that of Adolf Eichmann, one of Hitler's main engineers of his final solution. While Eichmann's wife claimed that he was dead,

Wiesenthal was able to prove that the evidence for his death was insufficient. Wiesenthal then assisted Israeli efforts to track down Eichmann. Eventually, the war criminal was caught and executed thanks in large part to Wiesenthal's efforts.

After the extremely high profile capture of Eichmann, Wiesenthal was able to gather enough support to continue in his efforts. He continued his mission and was able to secure the arrests and convictions of other important Nazis. His work led to the capture of Karl Silberbauer, a member of the German Gestapo who arrested Anne Frank. Silberbauer's confessions disproved the claims that The Diary of Anne Frank was a forgery. Wiesenthal was also instrumental in the capture and conviction of Franz Stangl who was in charge of running the Treblinka and Sobibor concentration camps. Wiesenthal also is credited with locating Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, a housewife living in New York who had supervised the murder of hundreds of children during the war.

Simon Wiesenthal believed that it was his mission to ensure that the victims of the Holocaust were not forgotten and that the type of atrocities that occurred during the Second World War do not happen to anyone anywhere ever again. Personally, I was honored to have made his acquaintance and was humbled by his presence.

Thanks to Simon Wiesenthal's lifelong dedication to the cause and organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, neither he nor the victims of the Nazi atrocities will ever be forgotten. It is now our responsibility to continue the vision of Simon Wiesenthal. We can not allow the horror of what occurred at Auschwitz and Treblinka and the other concentration camps to be erased from our memory; we can not allow racism and hatred to fester to the point where genocide becomes an option; and we can not allow those who commit acts of genocide to walk away without having to answer for the horrific crimes they have committed. The world has lost a champion for compassion and humanity in the death of Simon Wiesenthal. May his memory always be a blessing unto all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened today to learn of the death of Simon Wiesenthal, one of the world's great humanitarians. Over the past 50 years he tirelessly fought to preserve the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and dared the world to learn from their mistakes.

Wiesenthal, along with his wife Cyla, survived the Holocaust determined to bring those responsible to justice, for this, the most monstrous event in the history of the modern world. Though he weighed only 100 lbs when he was liberated from the notorious Mauthausen concentration camp, Wiesenthal soon began the enormous task of compiling evidence against Nazi war criminals.

Even before the war ended, Wiesenthal was working with the U.S. Army to gather evidence